

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O 091530Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7656

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 0317

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAU AO CG

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: CONVERSATION WITH ZAIRE FONMIN

1. ZAIRE FONMIN BULA ASKED ME TO SEE HIM TODAY. PURPOSE WAS TO INFORM ME, AND ASK ME TO INFORM SECRETARY KISSINGER AND ASST SECY SCHAUFLE, OF OAU SITUATION AS HE SEES IT.

2. IN TWO MEETINGS YESTERDAY, ONE TODAY, AND ONE MORE TO COME THIS EVENING, GROUP OF ANTI-MPLA COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN HAMMERING OUT A DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR PRESENTATION TO THEIR RESPECTIVE HEADS OF STATE. IF APPROVED, LATTER WOULD USE RESOLUTION IN SUMMIT, AND BULA HOPED IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE MOVES BY OAU ON ANGOLA WITHOUT INVOLVING RECOGNITION OF MPLA. HE DID NOT DESCRIBE CONTENT, EXCEPT TO SAY IT WOULD HAVE TO CONDEMN SOUTH AFRICAN, SOVIET, CUBAN, AND ALSO, REGRETFULLY, U.S. INVOLVEMNT. HE SAID TOTAL OF 24 RPT 24 COUNTRIES ARE PARTICIPATING. (COMMENT: IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT ALL 24 COULD BE STRONG ANTI-MPLA COUNTRIES. ETHIOPIA DID NOT PARTICIPATE. THERE MUST BE A NUMBER OF WAVERERS IN THAT TOTAL, BUT IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT SOME SIZEABLE GROUP IS AT WORK, FINALLY, TO CONCERT ANTI-MPLA ACTIONS.) BULA SAID HE SAW ONLY "ABOUT TWENTY" RECOGNITIONS OF MPLA, AND WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT COMOROS HAD DONE SO. (COMMENT: WE HAVE SINCE HEARD THAT NIGER HAS RECOGNIZED, MAKING TWENTY-TWO IF COMOROS IS INCLUDED.)

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3. NEAR-CRISIS WAS NARROWLY AVERTED YESTERDAY IN AOU MEETING

WHEN MPLA PRESENTED LETTER SPONSORED BY TANZANIA, ALGERIA, AND GUINEA REQUESTING ADMISSION TO OAU MEETING AS PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA. CHAIRMAN (UGANDA FONMIN) REFUSED TO READ LETTER UNTIL SIMILAR LETTER WAS PREPARED BY FNLA/UNITA SIDE, AFTER WHICH HE RULED THAT CM COULD NOT TAKE UP THAT ISSUE.

4. ASIDE FROM ASKING CLARIFYING QUESTIONS, I CONFINED MYSELF TO FOLLOWING. I SAID I HAD SEEN REPORT OF SCHAUFLE MEETING WITH MOBUTU AT WHICH BULA PRESENT, AND I KNEW THAT U.S. POLICY HAD NOT CHANGED SINCE THAT TIME. WE ARE DETERMINED TO RESIST SOVIET MILITARY INTERVENTION, AND CONGRESSIONAL SITUATION IS BY NO MEANS FIXED OR FINISHED. WE HAD BEEN CONCERNED AT LACK OF COHESION AMONG ANTI-MPLA FORCES, AND HAD HOPED FOR ACTIVE ROLE BY ZAIRE TO ACHIEVE CONCERTED ACTION. FONMIN'S REPORT OF PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS IS GOOD NEWS INDEED, AND IS INDICATION OF ACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ZAIRIAN LEADERSHIP.

5. BULA ASKED ABOUT ETHIOPIAN POSITION ON MPLA, AND I SAID I FEARED IT WAS WAVERING, ALTHOUGH I DOUBTED ETHIOPIA WOULD ACTUALLY RECOGNIZE BEFORE END OF OAU MEETING. BULA SAID HE INTENDED TO SEE EPMG FONMIN KIFLE, REMIND HIM FORCEFULLY OF ZAIRE'S PAST SUPPORT IN ERITREAN PROBLEM, AND PERHAPS EVEN THREATEN TO WORK TO HAVE OAU HEADQUARTERS REMOVED FROM ADDIS IF ETHIOPIA TOOK MPLA SIDE. HE ASKED ABOUT EPMG MOTIVATIONS, SURMISING THAT YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS IN RULING JUNTA ARE INEXPERIENCED. I SAID THAT IS TRUE, BUT IN ADDITION EPMG IS PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL PROBLEMS, AND SIMPLISTICALLY SAW ITS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AS CHIEFLY INVOLVING THREATS TO BORDERS (TRAI, SOMALIA, ERITREA, SUDAN) WHICH ARE ALL RELATED IN SOME WAY TO ARAB INFLUENCES. MILITARY JUNTA WISHED TO HAVE BEST POSSIBLE IMAGE WITH RADICAL ARABS, AND MIGHT SACRIFICE PRINCIPLE TO GAIN IT.

6. HE SAID MOBUTU WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW MORNING, JAN 10, INSTEAD OF TODAY.

7. COMMENT: BULA, AS ADVERTISED, IS PERHAPS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. HOWEVER, ALLEGED COHESION AMONG ANTI-MPLA FORCES IS HEARTENING, AS IS CONCRETE DRAFTING WORK ON RESOLUTION THAT MAY

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AVERT RECOGNITION OF MPLA.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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